

Message Text

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65

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-11 OIC-02 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

AID-05 OES-03 EB-07 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PRS-01

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R 171601Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1716

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TUNIS 1100

FOR NEA/AFN LEWIS MURRAY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: OCON TS

SUBJECT: FAILUER OF AVS CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS TO KEEP
APPOINTMENT WITH PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA

1. AT THE END OF THE AVS CONFERENCE IN TUNIS, PROMINENT PARTICIPANTS WERE INVITED TO CALL ON PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA AT PALACE. AFTER TIME HAD BEEN SET FOR CALL, DR. LUBELL INFORMED THE TUNISIANS THAT GROUP WOULD NOT CALL ON PRESIDENT SINCE THIS WOULD BE A "POLITICAL" ACT AND AVS STRICTLY NON-POLITICAL.

2. I FIND DR. LUBELL'S REASONING ABSURD. AS YOU KNOW, PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA HAS BEEN A WORK LEADER IN FIELD OF FAMILY PLANNING AND HAS TAKEN GREAT PRIDE IN TUNISIA'S ACHIEVEMENTS IN THIS AREA. FURTHERMORE, IT IS CUSTOMARY FOR TUNISIAN HEAD OF STATE TO RECEIVE ORGANIZERS OF INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES HELD HERE, BOTH AS REFLECTION OF TRADITIONAL HOSPITALITY AS WELL AS GESTURE OF INTERNATIONAL GOOD WILL. WE UNDERSTAND THAT PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA WAS UPSET AT REFUSAL OF LUBELL TO MEET WITH HIM AND DOES NOT UNDERSTAND REASON. NEITHER DO
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CONCERNED TUNISIAN OFFICIALS.

3. I WOULD VERY MUCH APPRECIATE IT IF YOU WOULD
CALL DR. LUBELL AND SUGGEST THAT HE WRITE TO PRESIDENT
BOURGUIBA IN SUCH A WAY AS TO SMOOTH THIS MATTER
OVER. SINCE THE USG FUNDED THE CONFERENCE, IT IS
INCUMBENT UPON US TO TRY TO ASSUAGE BOURGUIBA'S
HURT FEELINGS.

4. IT WOULD ALSO BE ADVISABLE IN THE FUTURE FOR
AID TO ADVISE ITS CLIENTS TO SEEK THE ADVICE EITHER
OF THE AID MISSION DIRECTOR OR THE AMBASSADOR IN
MATTERS SUCH AS THIS.

5. FULL NAME AND ADDRESS IS AS FOLLOWS:

IRA LUBELL, M.D., M.P.H.
DIRECTOR
INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR
VOLUNTARY STERILIZATION, INC.
708 THIRD AVENUE
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10017
TEL: 212-867-3114
SEELYE

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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